

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
LUCAS & CO
Attn. Cole, Paul Gilbert
135 Westhall Road
Warlingham
Surrey CR6 9HJ
UNITED KINGDOM

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

| | |
|---|---|
| | Date of mailing (day/month/year) 18/03/2005 |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference MDX, 008-PCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below |
| International application No. PCT/GB2004/050037 | International filing date (day/month/year) 09/12/2004 |
| Applicant MIDDLESEX SILVER CO. LIMITED | |

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no International search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
 no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/I/B/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

| | |
|--|--|
| Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Authorized officer Petra Königsdorfer |
|--|--|

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Office, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference MDX, 008-PCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION | | see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below. |
| International application No. PCT/GB2004/050037 | International filing date (day/month/year) 09/12/2004 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 10/12/2003 | |
| Applicant MIDDLESEX SILVER CO. LIMITED | | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A method for silver chain manufacture comprises forming lengths of silver wire into successive chain links whose ends abut using an automatic chain forming machine, and closing the links by brazing or welding abutting ends thereof, by means of a laser. The wire comprises at least 92.5 wt% Ag and about 0.5- about 3 wt % Ge and speeds of 100-250 links per minute can be achieved. The invention also relates to a silver chain.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B21L3/00 B21L11/00 C22C5/08 A44C11/00 A44C27/00

1017 Q02004/000001

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B21L C22C A44C B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| Y | US 2 138 088 A (CAPILLON EDWARD A) 29 November 1938 (1938-11-29) cited in the application the whole document ----- EP 0 729 398 B (JOHNS, PETER GAMON) 25 February 1998 (1998-02-25) cited in the application column 1, line 39 - line 44 column 4, line 21 - line 34 claims 1-3,6 ----- WO 02/095082 A (JOHNS, PETER, GAMON) 28 November 2002 (2002-11-28) cited in the application the whole document ----- -/- | 1-5, 9-16,28 |
| Y | | 1-5, 9-16,28 |
| A | | 6-8, 20-27 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 March 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/03/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Ritter, F

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 226 (C-1194), 25 April 1994 (1994-04-25) & JP 06 017167 A (ISHIFUKU KINZOKU KOGYO KK), 25 January 1994 (1994-01-25) abstract | 1,28 |
| A | US 4 247 602 A (KRUG ET AL) 27 January 1981 (1981-01-27) cited in the application the whole document | 1,9,28 |
| A | GB 2 355 990 A (PETER GAMON * JOHNS) 9 May 2001 (2001-05-09) cited in the application claims 1,6,12 | 1,5 |
| A | WO 95/14112 A (APECS INVESTMENT CASTINGS PTY. LTD; ECCLES, ANTHONY, PHILIP) 26 May 1995 (1995-05-26) page 2, line 27 - page 4, line 11 | 1,28 |
| A | GB 2 255 348 A (* METALEUROP RECHERCHE) 4 November 1992 (1992-11-04) cited in the application page 1, line 4 - line 6 page 3, line 2 - line 5 | 1,28 |
| A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 007, no. 031 (M-192), 8 February 1983 (1983-02-08) & JP 57 187195 A (TOKURIKI HONTEN:KK), 17 November 1982 (1982-11-17) abstract | 12,13 |
| A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 191 (M-1396), 14 April 1993 (1993-04-14) & JP 04 339590 A (CITIZEN WATCH CO LTD), 26 November 1992 (1992-11-26) abstract | 12,13 |

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|---|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| US 2138088 | A | 29-11-1938 | NONE | | | |
| EP 0729398 | B | 04-09-1996 | GB AU AU DE DE DK EP FI LV RU AT CA ES WO GB | 2283933 A 682734 B2 1032095 A 69408689 D1 69408689 T2 729398 T3 0729398 A1 962115 A 11599 A ,B 2124973 C1 163382 T 2176919 A1 2112633 T3 9513900 A1 2283934 A ,B | | 24-05-1995 16-10-1997 06-06-1995 02-04-1998 18-06-1998 23-12-2002 04-09-1996 17-05-1996 20-12-1996 20-01-1999 15-03-1998 26-05-1995 01-04-1998 26-05-1995 24-05-1995 |
| WO 02095082 | A | 28-11-2002 | WO | 02095082 A2 | | 28-11-2002 |
| JP 06017167 | A | 25-01-1994 | NONE | | | |
| US 4247602 | A | 27-01-1981 | DE FR GB JP | 2826812 A1 2429072 A1 2027378 A ,B 55001994 A | | 03-01-1980 18-01-1980 20-02-1980 09-01-1980 |
| GB 2355990 | A | 09-05-2001 | NONE | | | |
| WO 9514112 | A | 26-05-1995 | AT AU AU WO EP FI NO US | 209261 T 688773 B2 7062994 A 9514112 A1 0752014 A1 963803 A 963668 A 6726877 B1 | | 15-12-2001 19-03-1998 06-06-1995 26-05-1995 08-01-1997 24-09-1996 02-12-1996 27-04-2004 |
| GB 2255348 | A | 04-11-1992 | FR BE DE IT | 2675817 A1 1006333 A3 4213897 A1 1259562 B | | 30-10-1992 26-07-1994 05-11-1992 20-03-1996 |
| JP 57187195 | A | 17-11-1982 | JP JP | 1441438 C 62047117 B | | 30-05-1988 06-10-1987 |
| JP 04339590 | A | 26-11-1992 | JP | 3064042 B2 | | 12-07-2000 |